

The Titus Block  
Memphis, Tennessee

Spelling

TN  
HABS NO. 19-4

HABS  
TENN  
79-MEMPH,  
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT NO. 19

Historic American Buildings Survey  
J. Frazer Smith, District Officer  
36 So. Evergreen, Memphis, Tenn.

HABS  
19-4

72-1-111

THE TITUS BLOCK  
Third and Market Streets  
Memphis, Shelby County  
Tennessee

Owner: Not given.

Date of Erection: 1850

Architect: Col. Frazer Titus.

Builder: Col. Frazer Titus.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: Three.

Materials of Construction: Brick and stucco.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

THE TITUS BLOCK  
Corner Third and Market Streets  
Memphis, Shelby County  
Tennessee

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The so-called TITUS BLOCK was built in 1850 by Colonel Frazer Titus as an investment. He had made a trip to England and while there was impressed with the solution of the city housing problems. Upon his return he resolved to duplicate some of the apartments in Memphis.

Upon completion and advertisement of his project, the public became extremely interested. He invited the original tenants from the cream of society. For some years they were the criterion for fashion and were not subject to the regular public systems of rentals.

During the Civil War one of the apartments was occupied by a sister of Colonel Titus. She was a Confederate spy and many exciting events are of record during her stay there.

Colonel Frazer Titus is recorded as architect and builder.

Author Mrs. Homer K. Jones

Approved [Signature]

*Reviewed 1/36, H.C.F.*

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THE TITUS BLOCK  
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ARCHITECTURAL NOTES:

The Titus Block is composed of five brick houses, each with a service "ell" at the back. All the "ells" are back to back except the middle one, which stands separate. The two east "ells" are known only by the existence of their foundations. The rear of the main part of each house has a three-decker porch, and each "ell" has a double-decker.

The one foot outward projection of the middle house is shown in the front composition, where stuccoed quoins emphasize the breaks. The whole façade and sides are stuccoed over the brickwork, with quoins at the corners. The first and second floor openings have wide trims with two or three fasciæ, and dog-ears. The basement is rusticated and has louvres with cast-iron grilles. There are no cellars.

by Henry Chandler Forman  
June 1936